



Wichita Police Department Policy Manual

Approved by: _____

Policy 802-Helicopter Use

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Maintained by:
Special Operations

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- 802.01 The primary mission of the Air Section, which is part of the Special Operations Bureau of the Support Services Division, is to provide aerial support to the Wichita Police Department. Helicopter use in any other capacity shall be secondary.
- 802.02 When airborne, the helicopter shall respond to the following incidents:
- A. Officer-in-trouble;
 - B. Crimes in progress;
 - C. Vehicle and foot pursuits;
 - D. Silent alarms;
 - E. Suspicious activity that occurs outdoors;
 - F. Area searches;
- 802.03 Supervisors and officers are encouraged to request a response from the Air Section in reasonable anticipation of developing situations where there is likely to be a vehicle or foot pursuit.
- 802.04 If the helicopter is not airborne, but an Air Section pilot is on-duty, an officer handling an incident in which he/she feels a helicopter response would be helpful, may request such assistance.
- 802.05 Members of the Air Section will respond to an off-duty call-out when requested to do so by a Watch Commander or above and approved by the Special Operations Bureau Commander, any Deputy Chief or the Chief of Police.
- 802.06 In the event of a major incident or a disaster, or any special situation, the commanding officer may use the helicopter to establish an aerial command post.
- 802.07 The helicopter shall respond to requests for assistance from outside Sedgwick County with the approval of the Chief or a Deputy Chief.
- 802.08 At the beginning of each Work Shift, Air Section Personnel will notify 911 Emergency Communications that they are:
- I "ON Shift, and Available," or
"ON Shift, and Not Available" due to Prohibitive Weather, Scheduled or Unscheduled Maintenance, etc.

NOTE: If, at any time, during a given Work Shift, the Air Section's flight status changes, Crews shall notify 911 Emergency Communications accordingly.

If Crews become committed to a Special Assignment, they shall immediately notify 911 Emergency Communications via phone or a main operating Patrol radio channel that they are "10-6 on _____ Channel until further advised."

Once Crews have completed, or otherwise been released from, the Special Assignment, they shall immediately notify 911 Emergency Communications via phone or main operating Patrol radio channel that they are "10-8 off of _____ Channel."

At the end of each Work Shift, Crews will notify 911 Emergency Communications that they are: "OFF Shift, and Not Available."